

This Computes!

Department of Health Services Children's Medical Services Network (CMS Net) - Information Bulletin # 60



It has come to our attention that some pharmacies are unclear as to the use of the new SAR. EDS will be publishing the information below in a pharmacy bulletin. This information should help reduce the confusion.

On July 1, 2004, EDS and DHS installed the CCS claims processing and authorization enhancement for CCS children in all California counties with the exception of Los Angeles, Orange and Sacramento. This enhancement activates the eligibility, health insurance other coverage and authorization functionalities of the EDS claims processing system. With the new enhancement, pharmacies will be able to submit claims directly to EDS using the POS when they have a CCS Service Authorization Request (SAR) number. In most cases, the SAR number will be provided to the pharmacy by the CCS child's physician. This number can be used to bill for most pharmacy services. Please refer to your provider manual for drugs that require individual CCS SARs.

All service authorizations for CCS children will eventually be issued using the new CCS SAR. The transition to the new SAR will occur over several months because it is not possible to automatically reissue all existing authorizations in the new SAR system. Therefore, pharmacies will continue to receive requests to fill prescriptions that do not have a SAR associated with them. These prescriptions must continue to be billed using the process that was in place prior to July 1, 2004 for CCS claims. These claims will be accepted and processed by EDS. No claim will be denied for not having a SAR number when the old process is utilized. As new CCS authorizations are issued you will see an increasing number of prescriptions that have CCS SAR numbers attached. You may have to contact the CCS child's physician to request the SAR number if it is not supplied on the prescription. However, during the next several months you will continue to see new and refill prescriptions written by physicians pursuant to the old CCS authorization process, which will not have a SAR number. We appreciate your patience during this transition period.